

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY A/ SY/ FO: MKDALTON: HB

5/10/73 - EXT: 23123

APPROVED BY A/ SY/ FO - WILLIAM H. ARMOR

EUR/ EX - LDRUSSELL (SUBS)

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R 102019 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089175

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS

SUBJECT: MARINE SECURITY GUARD - VALLETTA

ROME FOR RSO; FRANKFURT FOR RSS AND RMO

REFERENCE: VALETTA'S 0826 AND 0736

1. DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS A MARINE SECURITY GUARD
COMPLEMENT IN VALLETTA WELL JUSTIFIED AND HAS INCLUDED
FUNDING FOR THIS IN SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET PACKAGE TO
COUNTER TERRORISM.

2. SINCE USE OF MARINE SECURITY GUARD IN UNIFORM IS
TRADITIONAL AND ACCEPTED PRACTICE FOR MOST OF EMBASSIES
THROUGHOUT WORLD BELIEVE THAT ANY LOCAL ATTENTION WOULD
BE OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE. UNDER EMBASSY'S NEW POSTURE
WITH RESPECT TO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND IN LIGHT OF
POTENTIAL TERRORIST THREAT, MORE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS
ARE SECURITY AND PROTECTION.

3. HOWEVER, FUNDING AND AVAILABILITY OF MARINES DIRECTLY
RELATED TO SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET PACKAGE NOW IN FINAL
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PREPARATIONS. WILL ADVISE.

4. WILL EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF REGIONAL MARINE OFFICER VISITING VALLETTA WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS TO DISCUSS MARINE GUARD AND SUPPORT MATTERS IN MORE DETAIL.
5. PLEASED TO NOTE POSITIVE RESPONSE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN PROVIDING POLICE PROTECTION RESIDENCE. ROGERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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